



Field Journal

C. A. Goldwan

covering New Mexico trip

June 6 - Dec. 3, 1909.

1909.

June 6-9.

En route from Washington, D.C. to
Thoreau, New Mexico. Left Washington
at 5:30^{P.M.} June 6 and arrived at
Thoreau at 5 P.M. June 9.

June 10-11.

Remained at Thoreau. Time spent
mainly in waiting for baggage and
for a train over the Zuni Mountain
Railroad.

June 12.

Left Thoreau and travelled by
Zuni Mt. R.R. 16 miles in a southerly
course to the small lumber
settlement of Kettner. From Thoreau
the R.R. runs southwestward soon
entering Cottonwood Canyon which
it traverses from end to end, emerging
after four or five miles in an
open valley and then turns
southeastward to Kettner.

1909.

June 13,

Left Kettner and travelled by wagon 12 miles in a ~~southeast~~^{course} to Mc Gaffey's Camp, situated in the open valley near the head of Bluewater River and just north of Bear Ridge which forms a part of the Continental Divide about 9100 ft. in height.

June 14-19

Remained working at Mc Gaffey's Camp.

June 20.

Moved from Mc Gaffey's Camp about 5 miles eastward to Whitson's Camp near Mt. Sedgwick.

June 21-24.

Remained at Whitson's Camp, working the vicinity of Mt. Sedgwick.

June 25.

Returned to Mc Gaffey's Camp.

June 26.

Left Mc Gaffey's Camp and travelled

by wagon about three miles down
the Guni Mt. R.R. to where the train
was working. Arrived at Thoreau by
rail in the evening.

^{June 27-28}
Remained working on reports at Thoreau, N.M.

July 29. ^{New Mex.}
Reached Thoreau from Lea Co. and
resumed field work at 2:30 P.M.

Recent rains have brought up the grass
and the plains are quite green.

July 30
Remained at Thoreau doing a little
work and preparing to leave tomorrow for
Wilcox, Arizona.

July 31
Left Thoreau about 3 P.M. by rail
and arrived at Albuquerque about 7 P.M.
en route to Wilcox, Arizona.

Aug. 1.
Continued on from Albuquerque at
12:30 A.M. and reached Deming at
9:30 A.M. Left Deming at 11:30 and
arrived at Wilcox, Arizona where I
joined Dr. Fisher about 4 P.M.

Aug. 2.

Remained at Wilcox making preparations to go out to a ranch to carry on experiments on poisons for prairie dogs.

Aug. 3.

Left Wilcox with every team and travelled about 12 miles northwest to J.H. cattle ranch where we settled down to experiment with poisons. In the afternoon we located holes in abundance for our purpose.

Aug. 4

Remained at J.H. cattle ranch. Poisons were prepared and placed at 110 holes, Dr. Fisher taking one kind and I another.

Aug. 5

Remained at J.H. cattle ranch about 12 miles northwest of Wilcox, Arizona. The two kinds of poisons placed yesterday were both apparently effective. One consisted of rolled barley treated simply

with strichnine; the other of rolled barley treated with strichnine and saccharine. We were gratified to find that both were well taken. In the afternoon we treated a number of holes with rolled barley poisoned with strichnine and cyanide of potassium to which was added oil of anise and saccharine. Holes treated with the simpler combinations were ^{held} ~

Aug. 6.

Remained at J. H. cattle ranch about 12 miles northwest of Wilcox. The doubly poisoned barley placed at prairie dog holes yesterday afternoon was not so well taken as the simpler combinations placed day before yesterday. Some of the holes blocked yesterday afternoon were still closed apparently indicating that the occupants were killed; others were dug out showing that the prairie dogs are very numerous.

Aug. 7.

Dr. Fisher and I visited experiments started yesterday and then made a trip to the hills west of the J.H. cattle ranch. We climbed up over the basal slopes which are covered largely with Turritis morri, L. arizonica, & L. hypoleuca. Dasydioria, leucocarpus and other shrub less abundant.

Aug. 8.

Dr. Fisher and I returned from the J.H. cattle ranch to Wilcox where we are to try further experiments in poisoning prairie dogs tomorrow.

Aug. 9

Remained at Wilcox. Whole farley was treated with strichnine, saccharine and egg and placed at burrows of prairie dogs. Very little of this preparation was eaten by the dogs before a very heavy shower which fell during the afternoon and interfered with further observations.

Aug. 10.

Left Wilcox at 9:47 A.M. for Socorro, New Mex. Arrived at Deming at 2:20 and waited there until 7 P.M. when I left Deming for Socorro.

Aug. 11

Arrived at Socorro about 2 A.M. and began work ^{during the day} by setting out traps.

Aug. 12 - 13.

Remained at Socorro working in the vicinity of the town.

Aug. 14.

Remained at Socorro.

Aug. 15 - 25

Remained working in the vicinity of Socorro and across the east side of the valley. On the 18 a trip was made to the Ojo de la Parida about 10 miles northwest of Socorro, returning ^{east} the following day. The eastern slopes of the valley for some miles are much more sandy - large areas being composed entirely of loose, drifting

sawd.

Aug. 26.

Left Socorro with team, and wagon with driver for Magdalena. The road led about five miles up the valley to Lemitar and then turned abruptly westward and climbed up gradually through a narrow canyon through the Socorro Mts. north of Socorro Peak. These mts. are rocky and barren and do not rise above the Upper Sonoran zone. Finally passing through the mountains we came out on a ridge along the west side from which a short and easy descent brought us into the bottom of plain about 10 miles across, between the Socorro and Magdalena mts. We crossed the plain to the east base of the Magdalena mts., and passed around the north end of the range to the town situated at the northwest base.

Aug. 27

Retraced a few miles of the road travelled yesterday and skirted the east base of the Magdalena mts.

south to the mouth of Water Canyon about 15 miles southeast of Magdalena where I camped.

Aug. 28 - Sept. 4.

Remained at camp in the mouth of Water Canyon, from which the adjacent mountain slopes were worked up along Water and Copper Canyons to the summit of the range.

The Magdalena Mts. rise abruptly on both sides from high plains. The range is about 25 miles long and extends from north to south. At the south end an Upper Sonoran plain about 10 miles or more across appears to back down into the Rio Grande Valley thus completely isolating the Magdalena & San Mateo ranges. The high plain, about 10 miles across, immediately east of the Magdalena Mts. and separating it from the Socorro Mts. is basin shaped, the drainage from Water Canyon crossing it and descending through a rugged canyon through the Socorro Mts. to the Rio Grande near Socorro. Old Baldy the highest peak of the Magdalena Mts. must be

about 11000 ft. in height. I ascended Copper Canyon to the summit of the range a short distance north of Old Baldy and got aneroid readings of over 10000 feet.

Sept. 5

Left camp in Water Canyon & moved about 15 miles to Magdalena.

Sept. 6-8

Remained at Magdalena.

Sept. 9

Left Magdalena and travelled about 23 miles in a southwesterly course to Monica Spring.

The road traverses a rolling plain which near Monica Spring becomes more level along the northeastern end of the extensive area known as the Plains of San Augustine. The more level portions of the road today ran across treeless areas, but the low hills and rolling stretches are largely covered with Pinus edulis & Juniperus monosperma.

Sept. 10.

From camp at Monica Spring a trip was made to the summit of one

of the highest peaks of the San Matias mts. near the head of Monica Canyon where I got an aneroid reading of 9800 ft. and a higher peak about a mile away, locally called Mt. Weatherton, was evidently over 200 feet higher. The San Matias mts. ~~here~~^{now} form an irregular mass, with a trend from east to west by southwest. They slope up rather gradually from the San Augustine plains, but on the east break off abruptly facing the Rio Grande Valley.

Sept. 11

Another trip was made to the summit of the San Matias mts. to bring down traps set yesterday.

A belt of Canadian zone covers the north slopes near the summit of the range.

Sept. 12-13.

From camp near Monica Spring work was carried on along the basal slopes of the San Matias mts. and on Indian Butte, an outlying mesa with precipitous sides, differing conspicuously from the neighboring hills which all have more

gradual, less broken slopes.

Sept. 14

From camp at Monica Spring con-
tinued work along the lower part of
Monica Canyon.

Sept. 15

From camp at Monica Spring I made
a trip on horseback, with traps, to
the bottom of the sandy San
Augustine Plain 12 miles northwest
of the spring. This part of the
plain is composed of loose drifting
sand and is very different in
character from the gradually sloping
side lying next to the San Mateo
Mts., which is hard and gravelly.

Sept. 16 - 18

Continued work on the San
Augustine Plain, returning each day
at evening to Monica Spring camp.

Sept. 19 - 25

Spent mainly in carrying on
experiments with prairie dog poisons
on the San Augustine Plain near

Monica Spring.

Sept. 26

Left Monica Spring and travelled about ¹⁵/₂₀ miles in a southwestly direction to Point of Rocks, so named from the rocky point which projects from the San Matto Mts., along the southern border of the San Augustine Plain.

Sept. 27

Left Point of Rocks and travelled about 15 miles in a southerly direction and camped on the Rio Alamosa at the mouth of Limestone Canyon. From the southern edge of the San Augustine near Point of Rocks the road turns southward, ascending gradually for a few miles and crossing at about 8000 ft. elevation the divide between the basin of the San Augustine Plain and the head of the Rio Alamosa. The road south of the divide follows the Rio Alamosa, the hills on either side rising a short distance away.

Sept. 28-29.

Remained working along the Rio

Alamosa at the mouth of Limestone
Canyon.

Sept. 30.

Left camp at mouth of Limestone
Canyon and travelled southward
about 35 miles to Fairview.

Road descended along the broad,
^{dry} open wash of the Rio Alamosa
for about 15 miles to Ojo Caliente.

At this point the Rio Alamosa
^{tunis move to the southeast and}
enters a box canyon and the
road to Fairview turns out and
continues southward up a broad
wash to the top of a divide at
about 7200 ft., crossing which it
descends a wash in the upper
part of the drainage area of the
Rio Chuchillo. The wash is dry all
the way down to Fairview.

Oct. 1 - 2.

Remained at Fairview making reports
and preparing to leave in the
morning.

Oct. 2.

Left Fairview and returned along
the road travelled Sept. 30 ^{for 20 miles} as far
as Ojo Caliente where I was obliged

to camp on account of high water
in the Rio Alamosa.

Oct. 3

Left Ojo Caliente and descended the
Rio Alamosa about 6 miles and then
turned up San Mateo Canyon,
camping about two miles above
the mouth of the canyon not
far from the base of San Mateo
Peak.

Oct. 4,

From camp in San Mateo Canyon
I ascended to the top of San Mateo
Peak, distant about 10 miles returning
to camp in the evening.

Oct. 5

Another round trip was made
to the summit of San Mateo Peak
and traps set yesterday were brought
down.

Oct. 6.

From camp in San Mateo Canyon
a trip was made to traps about
6 miles away, on the basal slope
of San Mateo Peak.

Oct. 7.

Returned from camp in San Mateo

canyon to Fairview, distant about 28 miles

Oct. 8

Remained at Fairview. Two experiments with prairie dog poisons were started.

Oct. 9-10

Continued prairie dog poison experiments at Fairview.

Oct. 11

Left Fairview and travelled about 12 miles west to near the summit of the Black Range west of Chloride. The road ascended a canyon leading out to Chloride.

Oct. 12

Returned from the Black Range about 12 miles to Fairview and remained lots of prairie dog poisons.

Oct. 13-20

Continued prairie dog poison experiments at Fairview.

Oct. 21

Left Fairview and travelled about 25 miles to Cuchillo, New Mex.

Road today ascended and crossed the low Cuchillo Mountains and then descended over a gradually sloping plain to the

small settlement of ranches on Luchillo creek where the elevation is about 4700 feet.

Oct. 22

Remained at Luchillo to examine conditions about the irrigated lands along Luchillo creek, in that vicinity.

Oct. 23

Sent team which I had been using continuously home and with another hired team travelled from Luchillo, ^{18 miles} to Las Palomas on the Rio Grande.

Road descended over the gradually sloping Lower Sonoran mesa all the way from Luchillo to Las Palomas.

Oct. 24-28

Remained working in the vicinity of Las Palomas.

Oct. 29.

Left Las Palomas and travelled 30 miles southwest to Hillsboro.

Road ascended the gradually sloping Lower Sonoran mesa to within about 5 miles when it entered among low, but rocky hills through which it passed to the town.

Oct. 30-31

Reunited working at Hillsboro.

Nov. 1

Left Hillsboro and travelled 13 miles west to Kingston.

Road led up through the foothills along the little valley of the Rio Pueras, passing through box canyons and over rolling hills. The altitude of Kingston is about 6200. It was formerly an important mining camp, but has been deadout for 10 or 15 years.

Nov. 2-7.

Reunited working in the vicinity of Kingston and up to the top of the Minibis Range four or five miles west of the town. A trip was made to the summit of Sawyer Peak, one of the highest of the range and the most southern of the high peaks of this vicinity.

Nov. 8

Left Kingston and travelled back to Hillsboro, 13 miles, and on south for about 18 miles to Lake Valley.

Road bed through gritty rolling hills becoming a little rougher when within about five miles of Lake Valley, descending slightly to near the upper border of the Lower Sonoran zone, and then ascending to about 5500 ft. at Lake Valley. Lake Valley is an old mining camp. Millions in silver have been taken out of places now marked by old dumps overgrown with Acacia, Lovillea and a few Fouquieria bushes.

Nov. 9-14.

Remained working in the immediate vicinity of Lake Valley and for four or five miles to the alfalfa field and small marsh northeast of town.

Nov. 15

Left Lake Valley and travelled by rail to Rincon, New Mex.

Nov. 16

Left Rincon and drove about 20 miles up the Rio Grande Valley to the small settlement of Garfield.

Nov. 17-21

Remained working in the valley along
the Rio Grande in the vicinity of
Garfield, New Mexico.

Nov. 22

Left Garfield and drove about 20
miles down the Rio Grande Valley to
Raton where in the afternoon I took
the train to Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Nov. 23

Remained at Las Cruces. Traps were
set in fields and among sand dunes
near the river. The sand dunes extend
in places quite close to the river. In
other places alfalfa fields extend to
the river bank.

Nov. 24

Remained at Las Cruces. Traps were
reset, mainly for Dipodomys and
Thomomys in and along fields near
the river and other traps were set
in the sandy country east of town.

Nov. 25-28

Remained working in the vicinity of
Las Cermes, N. Mex.

Nov. 29

Left Las Cermes for Washington.

Nov. 30 - Dec. 3.

In route from Las Cermes to Washington,
D.C., arrived at Washington, Dec. 3.